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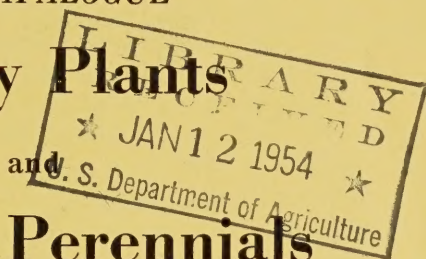
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# PELLETT GARDENS

ATLANTIC, IOWA

1954 CATALOGUE

## Honey Plants



## Unusual Perennials

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Featuring

## *Unusual New Plants*



Bees are "Man's Most Useful Insects". Make available to them a continuity of nectar bloom so they may flourish and increase to be present in greater numbers to pollinate our fields and gardens, fruits and flowers.

## *The Story Behind the Gardens*

It just looks like we Pelletts have a compelling interest in the study and propagation of a wide variety of plants. My father, the late Frank C. Pellett was a born naturalist, experimenter and writer. Dad spent much of his life in a study of nature which he passed along to many readers through his extensive writing. He kept a wild-flower preserve of hundreds of varieties of plants growing under their natural environments. His work with plants was climaxed in an extensive study of honey plants wherein hundreds of plants were brought into trial gardens for observation of their value to honeybees and other uses. These plants, including trees, shrubs, wild plants, garden flowers and forage crops, come from many parts of the United States and abroad.

Since I grew up with this environment, it is not surprising that my main interest is in the propagation of plants. And now our children in turn are showing a keen interest in the projects. More than fifteen years ago I began, first as a sideline to our nursery business, to distribute some of the most worthwhile and unusual honey plants. The live interest of our customers and the great variety of plants we have to choose from enabling us to keep adding to our offerings. We try to make it the best list we can of bee plants, featuring the desirable in the unusual. The interest in this catalogue is by no means confined to honey plants alone since the most worthwhile are those which are also valuable to plant for other purposes; and at the same time add to the livelihood of "Man's Most Useful Insects."

It is highly important to us to continue your patronage and we want to add many new customers to our list. Our experience in nursery handling is as old as our working life and we try to handle our stock in a way to get the plants, trees and seeds to you in condition to grow and kinds you will like.

Sincerely,  
MELVIN PELLETT

*Visitors Are Always Welcome at  
Pellett Gardens*



# Trees and Shrubs

## VITEX

(*Incisa negundo*)

This unusual shrub or small tree is a pretty one with deeply cut leaves and many flowers. It begins blooming at an early age, usually the first year the trees are set out, with lavender-blue flowers in terminal spikes. Once established, it is reasonably drought resistant and long lived. One of the very best honey plants, it furnishes abundant bloom which the bees work freely over a long blooming period beginning in mid-summer and lasting until nearly frost. It is reported likewise in southern Missouri; coming into bloom about the time clover begins to fade and humming with bees for nearly three months.



*Vitex incisa negundo* at Pellett Gardens. A really good bee plant.

*Vitex incisa negundo* appears best suited to climate southward of central Missouri, and southern New England. It is apparently root hardy some north of that range. In the north the stems often winterkill but the roots send up new shoots which flower the same year. In the south the plants grow to fifteen feet in height. Can be planted singly; or closely for high hedge or windbreak.

Seed, packet, 20c; 2 ounces, \$1.00; ½ pound, \$3.50; postpaid.

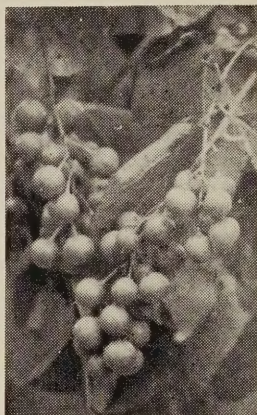
PLANTING: The seed germinates slowly and requires favorable conditions. Plant in garden seeded early in the spring. Water often to keep soil constantly moist during germination period which is usually two to four weeks.

Well rooted trees: 2 year, branched, each \$1.00; 3 for \$2.50; dozen \$7.50.

1 year whips, nice young plants, 8 for \$2.50; 25 for \$5.50; postpaid.

**BITTERSWEET****(Celastrus scandens)**

Our native American Bittersweet is a vine or climbing shrub noted for the bright orange and scarlet colored seed clusters which are much sought for winter bouquets. Good for trellis or arbor or border fence. The flowers are freely visited by bees.



Plant three or four at a place to insure both staminate and pistillate blossoms for fruit set.

*The bright orange colored berries later crack*

Strong plants or divisions, 5 for \$2.00, 12 for \$3.75; postpaid. *let*

**EVERFLOWERING LOCUST****(Robinia semperflorens)**

A very quick growing tree with everflowering characteristics. We have bloom almost all summer from the time of the first heavy bloom in late May and continu-



*Showing blooming habit of Everflowering Locust. Note several forming blossom buds at terminal. Photo in August.*

ing with varying amounts until near the first of September. Sometimes a little and sometimes a lot but almost always bloom on our Everflowering Locust throughout the summer. This is unique since we know



of no other tree which blooms over such an extended period. Blooming on the new wood, the amount of bloom may depend on the vigor of growth. In August we counted over 100 clusters of bloom at one time on a single two year tree which had grown to twelve feet tall and nearly as wide.



*Photo in July*

This should be worthwhile to add to your plantings if only for the novelty of a long blooming tree. But if you are acquainted with the black locust you will know how well the bees work it during the short blossoming period in spring; thus this selection with long blooming habit is promising for honey plant. Similar in growth habit and requirements to the common Black Locust which is adaptable to wide range of soil and climatic conditions.

Strong Trees, 4 to 6 ft. (trimmed back for mailing) each \$2.95; two for \$5.50; postpaid.

By Express not prepaid, 5 for \$10.00; 12 for \$20.00.

### **PEA TREE**

**(*Caragana arborescens*)**

A shrub or small tree having light green foliage and clusters of bright yellow pea-shaped flowers. It is completely hardy and is drought resistant. It is good for individual planting or plant 2 to 3 feet apart for hedge. It is a free bloomer and the pea like blossoms yield an abundant supply of well flavored honey in the spring. Bees fairly swarm over the flowers.

12 to 18 inch plants, 5 for \$1.00; 12 for \$2.00; 25 for \$3.75; postpaid.

### **FALL BLOOMING ELM**

**(*Ulmus parvifolia*)**

This nicely shaped little tree with attractive foliage is ideal for planting where space is limited and a small to medium size shade tree is desired. It grows slowly

and does not attain a large size, is neat in appearance at all stages.

This Asiatic species, little known in this country, is apparently not much affected by the diseases common to our elms.

Our more common elms bloom in early spring and are attractive to the bees for pollen. This one is reported as yielding nectar freely in Central Missouri and to be swarming with bees at a time (September) when there is little coming to the hive from other sources.

Two year trees, each \$1.00; 3 for \$2.50; postpaid.

### BEAUTY BUSH

(*Kolkwitzia amabilis*)

Outstanding ornamental, flowering very heavily for an extended period late May and into June. Bees visit the flowers freely. Is tops in ornamental shrub for yard or high hedge. Grows to nine feet tall.



*Beauty Bush is well named*

Good 12 to 18 inch plants, each \$1.00; 3 for \$2.65; postpaid.

### RED-BUD

(*Cercis canadensis*)

A pretty sight in the very early spring, blooming before the leaves come out, the branches full of clusters of rosy pink blossoms. A small round headed tree with large heart shaped leaves. Makes a pretty shade tree for small space or will grow in partial shade.

Red-Bud is very good as an early season honey plant, the blossoms are eagerly visited by bees and where abundant furnish a liberal bee-pasture for early



spring brood rearing. It is hardy to New York, southern Iowa and southward.

Trees, 2½ to 4 ft. well branched, each \$1.50; 3 for \$4.00; postpaid.

### **TATARIAN HONEYSUCKLE** (*Lonicera tatarica*)

A shrub with masses of attractive flowers in early spring followed by bright red berries liked by birds. It grows to eight feet tall and is very good where a quick growing, tall growing, flowering shrub is desired for individual planting, high hedge or screen. It is very hardy and will grow on almost any soil in sun or partial shade.

Very rich in nectar, as indicated by the name, this is one of the best early season bee plants. In our locality it blooms in May.

Good 18 to 24 inch plants, 2 for \$1.25; 6 for \$3.00; 12 for \$5.00; postpaid.

### **REGEL PRIVET** (*Ligustrum regelianum*)

This is a beautiful low growing shrub with dense growth and horizontal spreading branches. The small white flowers are much visited by bees for nectar in late spring or early summer. Later the branches become heavily laden with berries which remain all winter. A very hardy variety, attractive for foundation planting, also beautiful for a hedge.

Good 12 to 18 in. plants, each 95c; 3 for \$2.50; postpaid.



*Janet with Regel Privet*

### **PEKING COTONEASTER** (*Cotoneaster acutifolia*)

Hardy tall growing shrub with glossy dark green foliage. The very numerous, inconspicuous flowers are swarming with bees for weeks in late spring. Apparently among the best of honey plants. The branches very heavily laden with fruits lasting in winter, appears valuable for wildlife. Plant singly for specimens or valuable for massing or hedging shrub.

Select 12 to 18 inch plants, each 95c; 3 for \$2.50; postpaid.

## RUSSIAN OLIVE (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)

The abundance of white, silvery gray foliage makes this a most striking shrub or small tree. It is desirable for grouping and extensively used in windbreaks. It blooms in late spring or early summer and is one of the best of honey plants. Bees visit the flowers in large numbers from early morning until late evening. The grayish white berries are much sought by birds.

18 to 24 inch plants, 3 for \$1.00; 12 for \$2.50; post-paid.

**PLANTING TREES AND SHRUBS:** Dig the hole large enough so the roots will spread out naturally without bending. Set the plant only 1½ inches deeper than it stood in the nursery. (You can tell the ground line as that is where the green top joins the brown root). Fill in around the roots with loose dirt shaking the roots while doing so, so the hole will all be filled and not leave any air pockets around the roots. When the roots are well covered, then tamp the dirt firmly using your foot. If the ground is dry, then use a lot of water in the hole both before and after setting the plant. Even if the soil is moist, some water should be used after tamping in to further settle the soil around the roots. Plant as soon as you can after arrival of the stock. If this cannot be at once, keep in a cool place and keep the packing moist around the roots; or heel in the ground with the roots well covered with several inches of moist soil.

**DISTANCE FOR PLANTING:** For close windbreak or screen, space Everflowering Locust six to eight feet apart in the row; Vitex, Pea Tree, Beauty Bush, Cotoneaster and Honey Suckle three to four feet apart; Russian Olive four feet or more. The above are suggested spacing in the rows when a close windbreak, screen or high hedge is desired. If you wish the individual plants to develop fully, then a much wider spacing should be allowed.

## Importance of Honey Plants

Honey plants are the first essential to bee-keeping. For bees to store surplus honey there must be an abundance of nectar from one or more sources at one or several periods during the season. In order for bees to prosper, there must also be the so-called minor sources early and late and between the major flows, to keep the bees in shape and to build them up to make the most of the major honey flows.

Since honeybees, for their pollination services, are becoming recognized as very essential to our agriculture and national well-being, likewise honey plants which will furnish either minor or major sources must be looked upon as of major importance in the scheme of things. It is a law of nature that the greater the succession of nectar plants present throughout the season, the more bees there will be to perform the essential service of pollination of the fruits and flowers, gardens and fields of your neighborhood.



# Unusual Perennials

*Selected for Unusual Attraction, Hardiness and Nectar*

Each with its distinctive attractiveness as attributed to the unusual and to wild flowers. These are hardy perennials of the kind which will largely take care of themselves in their respective environments. The best we can find in perennial honey plants.

## ANISE HYSSOP

(*Agastache anethiodora*)

This wonder honey plant attracts the bees more consistently than any other of the 500 under observation in the American Bee Journal trial gardens. We know no other plant which the bees will work so freely, all day and every day, and for so long a blooming period as Anise Hyssop under right conditions.

Anise Hyssop furnishes an abundance of bloom beginning early in June. It blooms heavily for over two months and continues with some bloom until October. It is native to the middle-west and pioneer settlers reported fine crops of good quality honey from it. The plant is perennial and usually reaches a height of about four feet. It blooms the first year from seed.



*Flowers of Anise Hyssop*

Ask us for reprint "Anise Hyssop-wonder Honey Plant."

The seed is small, perhaps a half million seeds to the pound.

Seed, packet, 20c;  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce \$1.00; ounce \$2.50; postpaid.

Plants, one year seedlings, 10 for \$1.00; 50 for \$3.85; postpaid.

## ANISE HYSSOP, Pellett's selection

This strain differs from the common Anise Hyssop in that it tends toward stronger growing plants and with larger flower heads with the peak of bloom continuing to later in the season. Distinctively different, there is some variation within the strain. More showy and apparently longer lived and able to withstand more competition. The bees work it freely from morning 'til night but unfortunately it is scant seeder so most increase must come from divisions.

Plant divisions, 4 for \$1.00; postpaid.

## MOUNTAIN MINT (*Pycnanthemum pilosum*)

For the unusual amount of bloom per plant and the very pronounced minty flavor of the leaves, you will like this perennial in your garden or borders. It blooms heavily for a long period beginning mid-summer. The flowers are very attractive to the bees and an abundant source of nectar. This plant is noted for the large amount of mint oil contained in the leaves and flower heads. Grows to three feet in height. Will grow in sun or partial shade.



*Massive bloom of  
Mountain Mint*

The seed is tiny, probably more than 100,000 seeds to the ounce.

Seed, packet, 20c; ¼ ounce \$1.00; postpaid.

Plants, one year clumps, 4 for \$1.00; 12 for \$2.50; postpaid.

## MEADOW SAGE (*Salvia pratensis*)

The abundant purple flowers of Meadow Sage are a beautiful sight in spring when there is not yet much in bloom in the flower garden. We find this perennial



easy to grow, long lived and drought resistant. It stands reasonable competition and spreads slowly from self seeding. It grows close to the ground except in blooming stage when the flowering stems reach a height of two feet. Weeds can be mowed over it without injury to the Meadow Sage. Ideal for borders and naturalizing and you will like a row of it in your garden.

The flowers of Meadow Sage are humming with



bees and provide good bee pasture for several weeks at a time when forage is scarce. Here it blooms in May following dandelion and fruit bloom and continuing usually until the White Clover has started, thus filling a gap when nectar is needed for the spring buildup.

Ask us for the reprint, "New Sages for the Bee Pasture."

Seed, packet, 20c; per ounce, \$1.00; ¼ pound, \$3.00; postpaid.

Plants, 8 for \$1.00; 25 for \$2.50; postpaid.

### GARDEN SAGE (*Salvia officinalis*)

The garden sage has been cultivated for centuries for its aromatic leaves which are used in flavoring foods. It is a long lived perennial and should be included in every garden. The flowers are attractive to bees and a high quality honey is gathered from garden sage. Blooms in June.

Seed, packet, 20c; per ounce, 75c; postpaid.

Plants, one year seedlings, 6 for \$1.00; postpaid.

### PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Purple flowers on long spikes in late summer and fall. A nice ornamental growing to three feet or taller. Very good for flower gardens, hardy perennial, adapted to most soils, grows especially well in very moist situations.

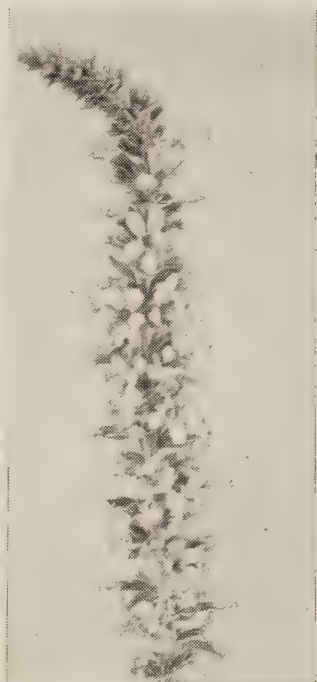
Purple loosestrife blooms over a long period and the flowers are very heavily worked by bees. The plant is especially adapted to moist or boggy land and under these conditions has naturalized readily in some localities.

We have heard some tall stories of the amounts of honey harvested from it where sufficiently plentiful.

The seed is tiny, with a very large number of seeds per ounce.

Seed, packet, 20c; ounce \$1.00; ¼ pound, \$3.00; postpaid.

Plants, 5 for \$1.00; 12 for \$2.00; postpaid.

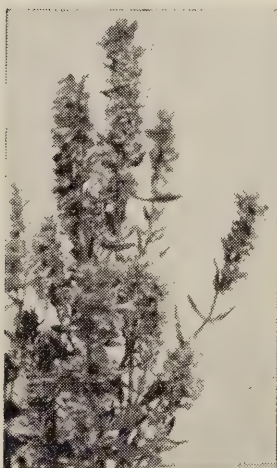
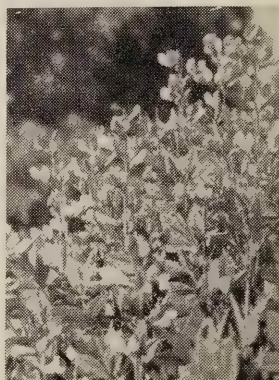


### WILD INDIGO (*Baptisa australis*)

Attractive in foliage and flower, grows into a stately clump three feet tall. Dozens of stalks arise from a single root of a well established plant with large clusters of blue pea-like flowers in June. Long-lived and hardy, very attractive to the bees.

Seed, per packet, 20c.

One year plants, 6 for \$1.00; dozen, \$1.75; postpaid.



### GARDEN HYSSOP (*Hyssopus officinalis*)

Stocky thick growth to two feet tall. Numerous blue flowers not showy but ornamental in mass. Usually swarming with bees for weeks, June to September. Not to be confused with either Anise Hyssop or Giant Hyssop as it is an entirely different plant. Makes nice border.

Seed, per packet, 20c.

Plants or divisions, 5 for \$1.00; dozen, \$2.00; postpaid.

### CATNIP OR CATMINT (*Nepeta cataria*)

This best known member of the Catnip family blooms over a long period, beginning in mid-summer. It is very rich in nectar and attracts the bees in large numbers. It is perennial, easy to grow and one of the very best of honey plants for naturalizing in waste places. This plant was common to herb gardens of pioneer days, grows three feet tall.

Seed, packet, 15c; ounce 75c; ¼ pound, \$2.50; postpaid.

**NEPETA NUDA**, known as Beemint, this member of the Catmint family is a taller plant with upright growth reaching a height of four or five feet. It blooms in mid-summer and is rich in nectar. Perennial. Seed, small packet, 20c, postpaid.





**NEPETA GRANDIFLORA**, with wide spreading growth and intermittent bloom most of the summer through early fall makes a very attractive planting for the right locations. To two feet tall. Easy to grow, needs plenty of room. Flowers rich in nectar and usually humming with bees.

Seed, small packet, 20c.

One year plants, 6 for \$1.00; dozen, \$1.75; postpaid.

**WILD MARJORAM**  
(*Origanum vulgare*)

Wild Marjoram blooms over a long period, beginning in midsummer and is a favorite of the honey-bee. It is an attractive perennial, growing 1½ to two feet tall. It is a European plant cultivated in gardens and naturalizes readily under right conditions in this country. It is promising for use as an ornamental in such situations as roadside plantings where one that will withstand reasonable competition is needed. You will like it in your garden.



Seed, Packet 20c.

Plants, one year clumps, 4 for \$1.00; dozen \$2.50; postpaid.



**JERUSALEM SAGE**  
(*Phlomis tuberosa*)

Showy member of the mint family, flowers to a height of four feet. Well suited for background planting. Easy to grow. Blooms heavily in midsummer, very attractive to the bees. Flowers, lavender.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.



### WOOD MINT (*Blephilia ciliata*)

Wood mint is a perennial which will grow either in partial shade or open sun. With us it blooms through the month of June and the flowers swarm with bees. The lavender flowers offer attraction as a garden plant as well as bee plant.

Seed, packets, 20c, postpaid.

### SEA HOLLY

(*Eryngium planum*) in the flower garden or border is a very striking perennial with its blue stems and flower heads growing to about three feet. A delightful picture with bees and other insects hovering over this handsome plant.

Seed, per packet, 20c.

### CHAPMAN HONEY PLANT

(*Echinops sphaerocephalus*)



*The Echinops have globe-shaped flowers*

Chapman Honey Plant, also known as Globe Thistle, once enjoyed a real boom among the bee-keepers. It blooms heavily in mid-summer and the bees visit the flowers in large numbers. The globe-shaped flowers are grown for ornament. The plant is biennial and reaches a height of six feet; easily grown, can be planted either spring or early fall.

Seed, per packet, 20c;  
¼ lb. \$1.00; postpaid.

### ECHINOPS RITRO

The blue flowered Chapman Honey Plant is perennial, growing to a height of about four feet on our soil. It is not nearly so tall as the other variety but is more desirable as an ornamental. It comes into bloom somewhat later and lasts into September.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

### SALAD BURNET (*Sanguisorba minor*)

Of special interest in the garden for leaves used in flavoring and as salad plant. Hardy perennial herb to two feet tall suitable for borders. Easily grown from seed. The flowers furnish abundant source of pollen for bees.

Seed, packet 20c, postpaid.



### CULVERS ROOT (*Veronica virginica*)

Showy white flower spikes in summer. One of our native plants, hardy perennial, upright to four feet in height. The bloom is very attractive to bees.

Seed not available.

Plant divisions, 6 for \$1.00; postpaid.



### GOLDEN HONEY PLANT (*Actinomeris alternifolia*)

Golden Honey Plant, also known as Wingstem or Crownbeard, is one of the best native honey plants of the Mississippi valley. Where this plant is plentiful the bee-keeper need never worry about abundant stores



*Bees Working Golden Honey Plant*

for winter. It is a rather coarse perennial about five feet tall with irregular yellow flowers. It blooms in August and never fails to find the bees working it. It will grow in either sun or partial shade; does best in sheltered situations such as partly wooded areas or woodland borders. Once started in favorable environment, it will gradually spread around. It is often found growing in sparse timber along streams.

Seed, per packet, 20c; ounce, \$1.00; postpaid.

One year plants or divisions, 10 for \$1.00; postpaid.

**SIMPSON'S HONEY PLANT****(Scrophularia marilandica)**

Simpson's Honey Plant also commonly known as Figwort, has long been famous for its rich store of nectar for the bees. The flowers are small but abundant and rich in honey. The plant is perennial and grows from three to six feet high. It will grow in either sun or shade and is often found growing wild in wooded areas. It blooms in the fall.

Seed per packet, 20c; postpaid.

**ASTER**

The wild asters are the last source of nectar in many localities. We offer a mixture of several of the most ornamental varieties, including New England Aster and Arrow Leaf Aster. All are worthy of a place in the garden. Perennial.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

**NEW ENGLAND ASTER,** probably the most showy of the wild asters; grows to four or five feet tall and blooms in the fall with showy purple flowers.

Divisions: 5 for \$1.00; dozen \$2.00; postpaid.

**MOTHERWORT****(Leonurus cardiaca)**

Motherwort blooms over a long period beginning in summer and sometimes continuing to late in the fall. It is an abundant source of nectar and the bees are attracted to it in large numbers. This perennial, native of Asia, has become naturalized in many American localities. It is easily raised from seed and once established, should remain with little attention for many years. Grows two to four feet tall. One of the best of honey plants to naturalize in waste places for bee pasture.

Seed, packet, 15c; postpaid.



**PLANTING PERENNIALS**

**SEEDS:** Some of these perennials are relatively easy to start from seeds while some require more exact conditions for germination. A number of the plants under this grouping have very small seeds and in most cases the smaller seeds need the most careful tending. The small seed should germinate very readily under just the right conditions. However, too hot weather or drying or crusting of the seedbed surface during the critical period when the seed is germinating and getting started can be very detrimental. We usually succeed with even the most difficult seeds of the lot (namely Anise Hyssop, Mountain Mint, Simpson's Honey Plant, Wild Asters, Purple Loosestrife, Wild Marjoram) by following something like the following procedures:

Prepare the seedbed in the fall. Then sow the seed on top of the ground either in last weeks before freezeup or anytime during the winter; so that the snow, rain and winter freezes will take the small seeds into the soil surface ready to start growing with the coming of spring. When planted, then sprinkle just a little straw or chaff over the seedbed to help keep the surface from crusting and give some protection to the small seedlings while getting started. Or the seed may be sown on a prepared seedbed in the spring (the earlier the better). If planted at this time, rake the small seed to cover very lightly with soil then apply very little mulch to the surface.

All the seeds we have listed under perennials may be planted by the above method (except as noted); although some would not necessarily require such careful treatment. Early spring is usually the best time for germinating seeds as that is when the weather is cool and less likely to dry out during germinating period. Of course the larger the seed the deeper it should be planted as Golden Honey plant should be planted up to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep and Chapman Honey Plant  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch. *Note the following variations:*

Wild Indigo seed is hard and only partial germination may occur at one time. Late fall or winter planting for the freezing to crack the hulls may result in better germination.

Chapman Honey Plant (*Echinops*) may be planted most any time during the season when there is sufficient moisture for germination.

Purple Loosestrife requires very moist conditions for germination. We have some reports of success in naturalizing it when the seed was only scattered in wet places in early spring.

**PLANTS OF PERENNIALS**—Firm the plants well in moist soil in upright position, placing them as nearly as you can observe to the same depth from which they were dug. Watering the plants in is helpful and very necessary if the ground is dry. Plant promptly upon arrival. If fall planted they should be mulched for first winter.

## Annuals

**PHACELIA**

The fiddle neck phacelia (*Phacelia tenacetifolia*) is an annual of easy culture and the flowers are covered with bees from morning till night. This plant is native to California but has been widely cultivated in European gardens as a honey plant, also grown to some extent for forage. It reaches a height of about two feet, with blueish or pink flowers. A famous bee plant.

Seed, per packet, 20c; postpaid.

**CALIFORNIA POPPY**

The California poppy is a familiar plant to those who have visited the West Coast in springtime. In the East it is grown as an annual. It reseeds freely and is easily grown in gardens or naturalized in sunny situations. The bees visit the flowers in large numbers for pollen. It blooms over a long period.

Seed, per packet, 15c; ounce, 60c; postpaid.

**GOLDEN CLEOME**

(*Cleome lutea*)

Golden Cleome or Yellow Spider Flower makes a large growing ornamental in one season growth. Though native to a dry region (the Southwest), this

annual proves worthy of garden cultivation in our more humid climate. Given cultivation and plenty of room, it reaches a height of six or seven feet and blooms from July until frost with a constantly increasing number of flower clusters. A single plant with plenty of room may resemble a young tree with much yellow bloom all late summer



and fall. It is ideal for background, self sows freely. Although this may not be true in all localities, we find it one of the finest of honey plants, very attractive to bees and other insects, continuing well into the fall when there is not much other bee forage.

Seed, per packet, 20c, per ounce \$1.00; postpaid.

*NOTE: Seed of cleomes is perishable and should be sown in the fall after the seed is harvested or early the following spring.*

## BORAGE

Borage has long been famous as a bee plant and has been much planted in European honey plant gardens. It is an annual native to Europe and North Africa.

Although the honey is dark and not of the best quality, the bees visit the flowers so freely that it should be included in every extensive collection of honey plants. It is a hardy plant, blooming for a long period.

Seed, per packet, 15c, postpaid.

## MIGNONETTE

(*Reseda odorata*)

Mignonette has long been a favorite with those who have bee gardens. The bloom is very fragrant. Some very extravagant claims have been made as to the amount of honey to be secured from this source. While there is no proof that such yields can be secured, the flowers are very attractive to the bees and it seems probable that if enough of it were available good crops might be harvested. Try it in your garden.

Seed, per packet, 15c; ounce, 60c; postpaid.

## SAFFLOWER

Safflower is a fast growing annual which reaches a height of about three feet. The large yellow flowers are of interest in the garden but it is cultivated principally as a source of drying oil in demand by the paint and varnish industry. Bees visit the flowers freely and indications are that it will prove to be a good honey plant.

Seed, per packet, 15c, postpaid.

## SESAMUM

Sesamum is an annual of easy culture. It grows to a height of three feet in this climate and the large flowers are very attractive to the bees. It blooms in late summer. It is an important source of edible oil in the tropics and some experimental plantings are conducted in this country for study of possible commercial adaptation.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.



## Forage Crops

### BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL

(*Lotus corniculatus*)

Birdsfoot Trefoil is a fine stem, long lived legume which is fast gaining favor in American agriculture. It is especially valuable for use in permanent pastures and also makes good hay. It succeeds well on some soils which are so low in fertility that alfalfa and clover do poorly. Adapted to most of the northern half of the United States.

Birdsfoot Trefoil is dependent upon insect pollination for seed set and reports indicate it will be a good source of nectar, at least for some localities.

We handle Certified seed of the Empire strain which has proven hardy, productive and long lived over the years.

Certified Empire Birdsfoot Trefoil seed (while our supply lasts:

Per packet 15c: pound with can of inoculant, \$3.00; 5 pounds with can of inoculant, \$13.50; postpaid.

Write us for prices and regarding availability of larger quantity.

**PLANTING:** For field culture, seed carefully on a firm, well prepared seedbed; three to five pounds per acre with Kentucky Bluegrass; or a smaller amount may be included with a permanent pasture mixture. Early spring seeding is most often practiced.

### PELLETT CLOVER

(*Trifolium ambiguum*)



*Pellett Clover root system as dug from six feet of row  
one year after planting*

This very unusual perennial clover spreads by deep rhizomous roots. Although the plant remains in the

experimental stage it thrives wonderfully on our grounds. The rate of increase from rhizomes is very surprising. Rows planted  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart in April were growing together in places five months later. From all indications it is entirely winter hardy. Animals like it.

The plant blooms in June and July and bees usually visit the flowers freely.



*Flowers Nearly White but as Large as  
Red Clover Blossoms*

Try some of this clover and you will have something really different, and who knows but somewhere sometime it will become adapted to be a leading forage plant.

Seed is not available.

Strong root divisions, well packed for shipping: 12 for \$1.00; 50 for \$2.50; 300 for \$10.00; postpaid.

Planting: Root divisions of this clover transplant readily during dormant season, late fall or early spring. In the north, fall planting should be mulched. For best results, spring planting should be as early as can be done. Set the plants 12 to 15 inches apart in rows  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart. It is best if each division is separately placed and firmed in moist earth with growing sprout near the surface.

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**NOTE:** We offer the following forage crops in packet quantity to enable you to observe the growth of the various plants in your situation. Also, to continue the service of their description as a list of honey plants would hardly be complete without forage crops. Clover seeds you wish to plant in quantity, you can likely obtain in your locality.

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### **SAINFOIN (Onobrychis)**

Sainfoin is the main source of honey in some European countries where it is extensively grown as a forage crop. It is drowth resistant and will grow in some situations where clovers do poorly. As a honey plant it has few equals, since the bees visit the flowers freely from the time of first opening until the last have faded. It is a pretty sight when in bloom. It blooms in May and June. Honey from it is of fine quality.

Seed packet, 15c, postpaid.



**WHITE DUTCH CLOVER****(*Trifolium repens*)**

White Dutch or pasture clover has long been the main dependence for a honey crop over a wide area of the Northeastern States. It is an important source of nectar in much of the Middlewest. The plant is easily naturalized along the roadsides, in pastures and waste places. Should be included in any mixture of grasses for pasture.

Seed packet, 15c, postpaid.

**LADINO CLOVER**

Ladino is a giant white clover which makes two or three times the growth of ordinary white clover where it does well. It is proving very popular in many places as a pasture and hay plant. It is best adapted to regions having good moisture conditions and fertile soils. Honey from it is very similar to that produced from the common white clover.

Seed, per packet, 15c, postpaid.

**STRAWBERRY CLOVER**

**(*Trifolium fragiferum*)** is a new clover which is salt-tolerant and will grow on some such soils where other clovers will not grow. It will usually make its best growth on wet or moist soils and will survive periods of flooding. Its adaptation to such conditions make it very valuable for some wet and saline soils where other legumes cannot be grown. Good for pasture and soil building in some sections and should be tried elsewhere on wet lands.

Apparently a good honey plant.

Seed, per packet, 15c, postpaid.

**SWEET CLOVER****(*Melilotus*)**

Sweet clover ranks among the best honey plants in this country. Climatically, it is adapted to practically all the United States and southern Canada. It will thrive on a wide range of soils and is extensively used as a forage crop.

**OHIO EVERGREEN SWEET CLOVER**

This variety is of special interest to bee-keepers because it blooms over a long period and continues later in the season than most other biennial sweet clovers. It is reported to have furnished good bee-pasture for over three months and some observations of it in our gardens indicate likewise. Because of the long blooming period the seed does not all ripen at one time and is hard to harvest in quantity. This fairly recent development in a white blossom variety we think outstanding for bee-pasture.

Seed, per packet, 15c; postpaid.

**MADRID SWEET CLOVER**

Madrid is a new outstanding variety of biennial yellow sweet clover. It is outstanding for early seedling vigor and high yields of forage. It appears to be well suited to the great plains and corn belt sections. It is a heavy seed producer, maturing slightly later than the common yellow.

Seed, packet, 15c; postpaid.

**HUBAN CLOVER** is the well known white annual sweet clover. Unlike the biennial sweet clovers, this one completes its life cycle in one season. It is of use in farm rotation where a quick soil builder is desired. It is one of the best plants for honey and can be depended upon for bloom the first season when planted early. Under favorable conditions it blooms over a long season and often means an additional honey flow after other clover blooms are past.

Seed per packet, 15c; postpaid.

### **FLORANNA SWEET CLOVER**

This is a promising new variety of white blossom annual sweet clover developed from a number of superior strains found growing in Florida under semi-wild conditions. Apparently well suited to Florida conditions and worthy of trial elsewhere.

Seed, per packet, 15c.

### **COMMON SWEET CLOVER**

There are two common varieties of biennial sweet clover, the white blossom and the yellow blossom. This offer is of seed of the white and yellow blossom mixed.

Seed per packet, 15c; postpaid.

### **HAIRY VETCH**

The Hairy Vetch, also known as Winter Vetch, is much used for green manure and cover crop, and for hay and pasture in some sections. It acts as a biennial when planted in the fall. An excellent source of fine quality honey in some localities. Long blooming period.

Seed per packet, 15c; postpaid.

### **BURNET**

(*Sanguisorbia minor*)

A perennial reported to stand heavy pasturing and in mild climates continuing to grow during the winter. Grown for forage some places in Europe and experimentally in this country. The bees visit the flowers of the plant freely for pollen which is provided in abundance.

Seed, packet 20c, postpaid.

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**PLANTING FORAGE CROPS:** Most forage crops will germinate and are reasonably safe to plant in small amounts anytime during spring or summer when moisture conditions are good during germinating period. Early spring seeding is usually the best time. Larger plantings should, probably, follow the farm practises of your locality.

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**PLANTING SEED OF ANNUALS:** Most annuals we have listed are of easy culture and (except as noted) may be planted most anytime during spring when moisture conditions are good. Early planting to get established ahead of hot weather may be preferable. Those easily damaged by freezing, as *Sesamum*, should be planted in late spring after danger of freezing is past.



## Books

*By the late Frank C. Pellett*

### ***A Living From Bees***

**By Frank C. Pellett**

A cloth bound book of 335 pages, well illustrated, which, as its title suggests, outlines proved methods of making a living from bees. The fundamentals of honey producing are explained, with reasons for every necessary manipulation.

Conditions under which beekeeping is practical as an exclusive business and when it is better to be followed as a sideline are discussed at length. \$3.00, postpaid.

### ***American Honey Plants***

**By Frank C. Pellett**

The fourth revised edition of this book includes more than 100 plants not mentioned in previous editions. The most complete and practical book on honey plants ever published. With 200 illustrations and 467 large pages, the honey plants of the entire United States and Canada are extensively reviewed. Beautifully printed and bound in serviceable buckram, it is a fine example of the highest type of bookmaking. About 1,200 plants which are important to the beekkeeper are discussed, with distribution, time of blooming, quality and yield of honey and other useful information. \$6.00, postpaid.

### ***How to Attract Birds***

**By Frank C. Pellett**

This little book of 156 pages, fully illustrated with the author's photographs, is an account of forty years' experience with wild birds in several localities. Suggestions for attracting birds by means of providing nest boxes, storm shelters, watering and feeding stations and providing suitable surroundings are helpful in any situation. \$2.50, postpaid.

### ***Success With Wild Flowers***

**By Frank C. Pellett**

An account of the author's forty years' experience in growing wild flowers in a five acre preserve. Illustrated with numerous photographs and color plates.

Cloth bound, 175 pages, \$2.50, postpaid.

## ***SPECIAL PACKET COLLECTIONS OF SEED***

**Something in Bloom All Season**

### **I. NECTAR LEGUME FORAGE CROPS**

(For you to get acquainted with the best we know in forage crops which are good for bees.)

**10 liberal packets of seed for \$1.00, postpaid.**

One packet each of Birdsfoot Trefoil, Burnet, Sainfoin, Ladino Clover, Hairy Vetch, Strawberry Clover, New Madrid Sweet Clover, Evergreen Sweet Clover, Hubam (annual) Sweet Clover, Common Sweet Clover.

### **II. ATTRACTIVE UNUSUAL NECTAR PLANTS for BEE GARDEN and FLOWER GARDEN.**

**6 packets unusual seed for \$1.00, postpaid.**

One packet each of Anise Hyssop, Mountain Mint, Jerusalem Sage, Meadow Sage, Sea Holly, Garden Hyssop.

### **III. NECTAR PLANTS FOR UNUSED LAND.**

(Also of interest in the garden).

**8 packets of seed for \$1.00, postpaid.**

One packet each of Golden Honey Plant, Wild Indigo, Catnip, Motherwort, Purple Loosestrife (for wet land), Phacelia, Borage, Chapman Honey Plant.

***All Three Above Collections  
for \$2.75, Postpaid***

## ***Special Collection Offer of Plants***

10 plants Anise Hyssop, 4 clumps Mountain Mint, 8 plants Meadow Sage, 6 plants Wild Indigo, 4 clumps Wild Marjoram and 10 Golden Honey Plant.

***\$6.00 Value for \$5.00, Postpaid***

## ***SURPRISE PACKAGE***

**25 or More Live Plants**

**including at least 6 varieties of  
Attractive Unusual Perennials**

**Our selection—not separately labeled  
for \$2.50, Postpaid**



**PELLETT GARDENS**

Atlantic, Iowa

Date.....195.....

Please send the following to:

I enclose \$.....

Ship plants and (or) trees about .....

*NOTE: Most plants and trees for spring planting we ship late March and early April. If no date is given, we use our best judgment. As soon as frost is out of the ground is best time to plant.*

Des. on Pg. No.	Items	Quantity Wanted	Amount	
	<i>TREES AND SHRUBS</i>			
3	Vitex (seed or trees)		\$	
4	Bittersweet			
4	Everflowering Locust (trees)			
5	Pea Tree			
5	Fall Blooming Elm			
6	Beauty Bush			
6	Red Bud			
7	Tatarian Honeysuckle			
7	Regel Privet			
7	Peking Cotoneaster			
8	Russian Olive			
	<i>UNUSUAL PERENNIALS</i>			
9	Anise Hyssop			
9	Anise Hyssop, Pellett's Selection (divisions)			
10	Mountain Mint			
10	Meadow Sage			
11	Garden Sage			
11	Purple Loosestrife			
12	Wild Indigo			
12	Garden Hyssop			
12	Catnip or Catmint			
12	Nepeta Nuda			
13	Nepta Grandiflora			
13	Wild Marjoram			
13	Jerustalem Sage			
14	Woodmint			
14	Sea Holly			
14	Chapman Honey Plant			
	<i>CARRIED FORWARD</i>		\$	

(over)

Des. on Pg. No.	Items	Quantity Wanted	Amount	
	<i>CARRIED FORWARD</i>		\$	
14	Echinops Ritro			
14	Salad Burnet			
15	Culvers Root			
15	Golden Honey Plant			
16	Simpson's Honey Plant			
16	Aster (mixture wild aster seed)			
16	New England Aster (divisions)			
16	Motherwort			
	<i>ANNUALS</i>			
17	Phacelia			
17	California Poppy			
17	Golden Cleome			
18	Borage			
18	Mignonette			
18	Safflower			
18	Sesamum			
	<i>FORAGE CROPS</i>			
19	Birdsfoot Trefoil			
19	Pellett Clover (root divisions)			
	<i>BOOKS</i>			
23	A Living From Bees			
23	American Honey Plants			
23	How to Attract Birds			
23	Success With Wild Flowers			
	<i>SPECIAL COLLECTIONS</i>			
24	Packet Collection of Seed No. I, No. II, No. III, or all 3		\$	
24	Special Collection Offer of Plants			
24	Surprise Package			
	<i>STRAWBERRY PLANTS</i>			
27	Senator Dunlap			
27	Gem			
27	Asparagus (roots)			
	<i>TOTAL AMOUNT</i>		\$	

We try to send out only good seeds and plants and we use much care to keep our varieties pure and true to name. However, since results also depend upon such factors as soils, climates, weather, knowledge and skill of the purchaser, etc., over which we have no control, we cannot in any way be responsible for the crop. It is mutually agreed that our liability in any instance is limited to the original purchase price. *PELLETT GARDENS, Atlantic, Iowa.*

## STRAWBERRY PLANTS

Hardy, northern grown plants, rightly handled and shipped direct to you from our doubly inspected beds. Best varieties for use in the mid-west.

Shipments during March and April only.

SENATOR DUNLAP, June bearing—50 for \$1.50; 100 for \$2.25; 200 for \$3.95; 500 for \$9.00; postpaid; 1,000 for \$14.00, express, not perpaid.

GEM EVERBEARING, 50 for \$2.00; 100 for \$3.50; 200 for \$6.50; postpaid.

## ASPARAGUS

The favorite Mary Washington variety.

Very good plants, 25 for \$1.50; 50 for \$2.60; postpaid.

### SHIPPING SEASON:

Seeds: Year around.

Plants and trees: Late fall and early spring, closing middle of May.

You will find planting directions throughout this catalog. ORDER EARLY to be ready to plant at most favorable time.

### FALL ORDERS:

You may use this catalogue for fall orders. We expect to have most items at the same prices. If prices have risen on any item you order, we will advise before shipping.

### CONDITIONS OF SALE:

Remit by check or money order. Currency remittances at your own risk. Refunds made for items sold out as soon as known.

**Safe Arrival Guaranteed.** Parcel post shipments we either insure or guarantee (to the extent of the purchase price) safe arrival anywhere in the U. S. A. Trees and plants are guaranteed to arrive in good growable condition, provided shipment is ordered within our stated shipping season. We cannot guarantee results as that depends upon circumstances beyond our control. Plants we offer will be well packed for shipping. Any claims should be made within ten days from receipt of order.

We try to send out only good seeds and plants and we use much care to keep our varieties pure and true to name. However, since results also depend on such factors as soils, climates, weather, knowledge and skill of the purchaser, etc., over which we have no control, we cannot in any way be responsible for the crop. It is mutually agreed that our liability in any instance is limited to the original purchase price. Pellett Gardens.

## PELETT GARDENS

MELVIN PELLETT

ATLANTIC, IOWA



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